Maine Maritime Museum Library
243 Washington Street
Bath, Maine 04530-1638
(207) 443-1316, ext. 328, 336

Inventory for

Manuscript Collection
MS - 13

Schooner *Abbie Bowker* Papers

1890-1901

by
Elisabeth Meier
March, 2018

1 box
.4 linear feet
Accession no. 69.3436, 69.3437

Copyright Restrictions

The material described herein is the physical property of the Maine Maritime Museum Library. **Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors of the various items, or to their legal representatives, or to Maine Maritime Museum.** For further information, consult the library staff.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be *"used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research."* If a user later uses a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if fulfillment of the order is judged to be in violation of copyright law.

It is the user's responsibility to understand the copyright law concerning the use of the historical documents contained in this library.

Copyright © 2018 by Maine Maritime Museum

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Maine Maritime Museum Library.

Abstract

.

Schooner *Abbie Bowker* (1890-1918)

Papers, 1890-1901

1 box

Three-mast schooner built in Phippsburg, Maine

This collection contains accounts, bills, receipts, and other papers related to the construction and operation of the *Abbie Bowker* (three-mast schooner). Built by Timothy B. Bowker, the *Abbie Bowker* principally carried coal and stone between New York and Maine. This collection covers the years that the vessel was managed by Charles V. Minott, also of Phippsburg.

Gift of Arthur M. Bowker Jr.

MS - 13. Accession #68.3436 and #68.3437.

Finding aid in repository.

Added entries—persons:

Bowker, Timothy B. (1816-1902)
Hagan, Frank W., Captain
Hagan, Proctor A., Captain
Minott, Charles V. (1826-1903)
Perry, Scott C., Captain
Purington, Frank G., Captain

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Abbie Bowker (Schooner)
Chadwick & Potter (New York, N.Y.)
James W. Elwell & Co. (New York, N.Y.)

Added entries—key terms:

Accounts
Coal-carrying vessels
Coal trade
Coasters (ships)
Lumber trade
Marine towing
Merchant seamen – Salaries, etc.
Schooners
Ship brokers
Ship chandlers
Shipbuilding – Maine – Phippsburg
Ships – Maintenance and repair
Stone industry and trade
Wages
West Indies trade

Acquisition

This collection was donated to the museum in 1969 by Arthur M. Bowker Jr., the great-grandson of Frank S. Bowker.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The documents are in good condition.

Processing Notes

MS-13 originally contained a number of account books from Frank S. Bowker, which were also part of accession #69.3437. The collection has been since been divided and the account books housed in MS-212. Frank S. Bowker did help to build the *Abbie Bowker* and owned a large share of the vessel, but the papers here did not originate with him. Instead, the construction accounts are addressed to Timothy Bowker, the *Abbie Bowker*'s master builder, and those related to management to Charles V. Minott. The two collections have therefore been separated.

Related Materials

More material on the *Abbie Bowker* can be found in MS – 90, the Charles V. Minott Shipyard Records, and in MS – 73, the Dunn & Elliot Papers. The former collection directly addresses gaps in the documents here.

Researchers may also wish to consult MS-212, the Frank S. Bowker Account Books, for information on a closely related shipbuilder.

Historical Note

The *Abbie Bowker* (three-mast schooner) was launched in 1890 in Phippsburg, Maine. She was built by Timothy B. Bowker with some input from Charles Minott, though, in later years, Frank S. Bowker (who did assist in building the vessel) would claim the *Abbie Bowker* as the first in the long string of schooners that he had launched from his own yard.

For the first ten years of her sailing career, the *Abbie Bowker* was managed by Charles V. Minott. She was commanded by F.G. Purington from 1890-1894, Proctor A. Hagan from 1894 to 1895, and Scott C. Perry from 1895 to 1901. In 1901, she was sold to New York interests. She returned to Maine in 1906 under the ownership of Dunn & Elliot of Thomaston.

The *Abbie Bowker* sailed in the coasting trade. In her early years, she shuttled stone, lumber, and coal between Maine and New York. Later, with guidance from James W. Elwell & Co., the *Abbie Bowker* began sailing sporadically to the mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean in addition to her New England routes. Apart from a minor grounding at Bombay Hook in the Delaware Bay in 1896 and a collision with the passenger steamer *Bunker Hill* in Vineyard Sound in 1915, her long career seems to have been largely without incident.

In 1916, the *Abbie Bowker* was sold again, to owners in Tampa, Florida, and then to a lumber company in Mobile, Alabama. She was finally lost when she ran aground at Abaco, Bahamas, in 1918.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains accounts, bills, and receipts related to the construction and operation of the *Abbie Bowker* (three-mast schooner) between 1890 and 1901. This covers the years that the vessel was managed by Charles V. Minott of Phippsburg.

The bulk of the material is related to the *Abbie Bowker*'s sailing career. It provides an account of her participation in the coasting trade between Maine and New York, usually carrying stone or coal, and is particularly detailed in regard to towing, watchmen, and other facets of port business. It also documents the schooner's less frequent trips to the southern US and various ports in the Caribbean, including a three-month period when the vessel was chartered for the West Indies by the Texas Star Flour Mills in 1893.

The documents related to construction are incomplete, but include receipts for labor and fitting out. The schooner's repairs and maintenance are filed with the general accounts of her operation.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	Certificate of Enrollment, 1890
	2	Ownership, bills of sale, 1901
	3	Insurance, 1893
	4	Construction, accounts, May-November 1890
	5	Labor, October 1890
	6	Correspondence, 1891
	7	Accounts, summaries, Capt. F.G. Purington, 1890-1894
	8	November 1894 – May 1895
	9	Account book, Captain P.A. Hagan, November 1894 – June 1895
	10	Capt. Scott C. Percy, June 1895 – September 1897
	11	Capt. Scott C. Percy, October 1897 – March 1900
	12	Capt. Scott C. Percy, April 1900-March 1901
		Accounts, general
	13	Parker's Head (ME)-New York-Gardiner (ME)-New York-Bridgeport-Bath-Friendship (ME), Oct. 1890 – Jan. 1891
	14	New York-Gloucester (MA)-New York-Bath-Lynn (MA)-New York-Bath-New York-Round Pond (ME), Jan.-July 1891
	15	New York-Hull (MA)-New York-Hull-New York, July 1891-Jan. 1892
	16	Friendship-New York-Portland (ME)-New York-Portland-New York-Marblehead (MA)-Portland-New York, Jan.-May 1892
	17	New York-Gardiner-Friendship-New York-Lynn-South Thomaston, May-Sept. 1892
	18	New York-Friendship-New York-Bath-Tenant's Harbor (ME)-New York-Norfolk (VA)-New York, Oct. 1892-Feb. 1893
	19	Galveston (TX), March-May 1893
	20	Cuba & West Indies-Galveston-New York, June-Oct. 1893
	21	New York-Portsmouth (NH)-Portland, Nov-Dec. 1893
	22	New York-Bath-Parker's Head-New York-Parker's Head, Jan.-June 1894
	23	Philadelphia-Boston-Parker's Head-Boston, June-July 1894
	24	New York-Vinalhaven (ME)-New York-Lynn-New York-Kennebunkport (ME)-Phippsburg (ME)-New York, August- Dec. 1894
	25	New York, Dec. 1894-Jan. 1895
	26	St. Thomas-San Pedro de Macoris (Dom. Rep.), Jan-March 1895
	27	Vinalhaven-New York-Norfolk, April-May 1895
	28	New York-Wilmington (DE)-Philadelphia-New York-Ipswich-Tremont (ME)-New York, May-August 1895
	29	August 1895-December 1900
	30	Miscellaneous receipts, undated
	31	Accounts, bills of lading, 1890-1995
	32	Accounts, crew, wages, 1894
	33	Miscellaneous papers, Frank S. Bowker and Charles V. Minott